



City of Bloomington Environmental Commission

The mission of the Environmental Commission is to advise the City of Bloomington on how its actions and policies may preserve and enhance the quality of Bloomington's environment, including the life-supporting processes that natural ecological systems provide to humans and other organisms.

MINUTES

19 May 2016

City Hall McCloskey Room, 401 North Morton Street

1. Introductions: welcome new commissioners (7:00-7:05 p.m.)
Present: Dedaimia Whitney, Chad Roeder, Alicia Reinersman, Chris Neggers, Kriste Lindberg, Wendy Read Wertz, Dave Debikey, Ramsay Harik, Sarah Green, Andy Marrs, Linda Thompson, Nick Kappas, Chaim Julian, Mike Litwin
Absent: David Parkhurst
Guests: Christy Langley, Planning and Transportation Director; Calvin Davidson, Ray's Trash & Recycling; Stacy Jane Rhoads, City Council staff

The EC has a new commissioner: Ramsay Harik.

2. Approval of minutes (7:05-7:10 p.m.)
 - Unanimous approval by voice vote
3. Public comment (7:10-7:30 p.m.)
 - No public comment
4. Presentation: Christy Langley, AICP, Director, Planning and Transportation Department
Calvin Davidson of Ray's Trash & Recycling Service

Christy Langley:

Christy is the new Planning and Transportation Director for the City of Bloomington. She previously worked for the City of Noblesville, Indiana, where she served as the Assistant Director of Economic Development, Planning Director, and Deputy Mayor. Prior to her time in Noblesville, she worked in Sarasota County for about a year as a neighborhood planner. Originally from Madison, Indiana, she received her Master of Public Affairs degree from IUB SPEA and her Bachelor of Urban Planning degree from Ball State University.

Christy is excited about the Growth Policies Plan (GPP) update, especially from an environmental perspective. In the coming weeks, she will be working closely with Utilities, Parks and Recreation, and the EC. Christy expects the GPP draft from the consulting firm on May 27th. Staff will review and revise this draft for about two weeks. Following these revisions, there will be a two-and-a-half to three month period of public feedback. Christy hopes to have the GPP on the Plan Commission Agenda in October and the Common Council Agenda in November.

June 10, 2016

Calvin Davidson:

Ray's Trash & Recycling Service is a family-owned business that started in 1965. The company employs about 600 people and has roughly 300 trucks on the road every day. Ray's receives recyclables from communities like Westville, Zionsville, Lebanon, Plainfield, Franklin, Brownsburg, Danville, Columbus, et cetera. Ray's owns seven or eight facilities that either house trucks or sort and process recyclables. The newest facility, which is 140,000ft² in total, dedicates about 88,000ft² to sort recyclables. This facility processes between 25 and 30 tons of recyclables per hour and runs for a single shift. Most of the material separation is automatic. Ray's uses near-infrared optical technology to detect different plastics and separate them with air bursts at the end of the conveyer. They also use eddy currents to separate non-ferrous materials, screens to remove cardboard, and trommels to gather paper.

Ray's also operates a facility in Zionsville, which processes mixed waste, along with another facility in downtown Indianapolis. Additionally, Ray's runs a couple of scrapyards that receive metal, grind shingles to sell to asphalt paving companies, and crush concrete to make resalable aggregate-sized stones. Ray's recently added a salvage component to their business as well. They do not, however, own a landfill.

Where Ray's operates in Columbus, they have a 50 percent participation rate, which is high for Indiana. Although Columbus already offers free recycling bins upon request, more work can be done. Part of the reason the participation rate is not higher is because apartment complexes and restaurants lack space in their parking lots for recycling dumpsters and trucks. Calvin also noted that apartment complex residents usually lack space within their dwellings to accommodate recycling bins, which contradicts the numerous requests in Bloomington for apartment complex recycling. Dedaimia wants Calvin to come up with a few things he needs to expand recycling to apartments.

Calvin invited the EC to view the facility in Indianapolis.

5. External committee reports (electronic)
6. Reports from 2016 working groups (5 minutes each)

A. BEAP (Alicia)	F. Land use (Linda)
B. Biodiversity (Andy)	G. Plan Commission (Nick)
C. Commons charter (Ryan)	H. Tree Commission (Dedaimia)
D. Eco Heroes (Sarah)	I. Waste (Dave D)
E. Food and agriculture (Dave P)	J. Water policy (Mike)

BEAP:

- Alicia is revising the BEAP as per feedback she received from various City officials. She plans to send revised drafts to those officials for additional input.
- The next step is formatting.

Biodiversity:

- The toxics group merged with the biodiversity group.
- The group plans to create a bookmark with PCB information and who to contact with questions.
- On June 1st from 4:00 - 6:00pm, the biodiversity group will be holding a monarch pollinator garden planting session in the City Hall parking lot.
- The next biodiversity meeting is on June 13th at 5:00pm.

June 10, 2016

The EC discussed whether to keep and change Lawns for Life (L4L), discontinue it, or relinquish it to its founder. For now, the EC will maintain control of L4L. Andy will discuss the implications of this decision with current L4L members.

Commons Charter:

- No report

Eco Heroes:

- Sarah sent photos to the Eco Heroes winners.
- Dedaimia wants to revise the image release form to enable the EC to use photos from Eco Heroes in the future.

Food and Agriculture:

- David Parkhurst was not present to share his report.

Land Use:

- Chocolate Moose: the plans still need to be revised following the Plan Commission meeting. The developers do not want street trees on Smith Street and Washington Avenue, but that area needs more trees and better lighting.
- Urban Station: the petitioner statement merges cast stone and limestone. This development is supposed to look more modern and will have a brick and concrete exterior.
- Comfort Suites: the developer wants the area to be rezoned from CG, which does not allow hotels and motels, to CA to allow this hotel to be built. The developers plan to relocate the detention pond to the back of the property. The Plan Commission wants the building to be in front and parking and the detention basin to not be on the street front. This plan will go to the Plan Commission for a recommendation to the BZA.
- Dunn Hill Apartments: this development is controversial in terms of safety, size, and density. The plan includes a green beltway and courtyard. To get into the courtyard, emergency services would have to travel down the beltway and into the courtyard. The Fire and Police Departments do not favor this design. The Planning department will not give recommendations until they receive input from the Plan Commission.
- Planning process and terminology handout: the EC should consider having an intern create a handout explaining the planning process and key terms.

Plan Commission:

- Chocolate Moose: getting the developers to include recycling in their plans might be an issue.
- Dunn Hill Apartments: At 17th and Dunn Street, all of the apartments will be torn down and replaced with 750 rather than 350 units. There will be green corridors between structures and a 5-story parking garage, which will affect the intersection of 17th and Dunn Street.
- Sullivan Building: the petitioner requested two more floors and a greenhouse on the roof. They will keep the original building façade.

Tree Commission:

- The Tree Commission will meet on Wednesday, May 25th. Dedaimia will email her report to the EC.

Waste:

- The group met last week with new members. Most of the meeting focused on informing new members on previous work and important next steps.
- The group started surveying downtown businesses, and they are trying to get a new SPEA capstone class.

June 10, 2016

- Chad is waiting to receive input on proposal for a Materials Recovery Facility feasibility study. Dedaimia is glad to help.
- Caryn Hojnicky, IU Athletics Sustainability Coordinator, contacted Dedaimia about whether the EC wanted to help with a Master Recycling Program, and Dedaimia said, "Yes."

Water:

- The group plans to work on the Adopt-a-Stream program in the fall.
- The group plans to research graywater if an intern can work on it at some point.
- In their most recent meeting, the water group discussed water issues in relation to the GPP update. Mike will send those comments to Linda.

7. Commissioner announcements (9:15-9:30 p.m.)

- Mike, Linda, Dedaimia, and Wendy cannot attend next meeting, so Dedaimia will schedule a new meeting date using a Doodle poll. Dedaimia will contact next month's speaker, Rachel Atz, to see if she can meet on the date decided through the Doodle poll.
- Linda: Be sure to submit working group agendas to Linda by June 2nd.
- Ramsay: created a deer cage, which is available on www.deercage.com.
- Kriste: recently attended a stormwater conference and plans to go to two other conferences. The weekend of May 21st is Nature Awareness Weekend at the Stone Head Nature Preserve.
- Nick: May 20th is National Bike to Work Day.

8. Adjournment

Meeting times

- A. Environmental Commission: 16 June, 7:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- B. Planning Committee: 1 June, 4:00 p.m., Lemon Room, City Hall
- C. Tree Commission: 15 June, 9:30 a.m., Bryan Park
- D. BCOS meeting: 14 June, 6:00 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall
- E. EQAS Commission: 15 June, 5:30-7:00 p.m., Nat U. Hill III Room, Courthouse
- F. ERAC: 8 June, 4:30 p.m., TBD
- G. MCSWMD Board: 9 June May, 4:00 p.m., Nat Hill III Room, Courthouse
- H. MCSWMD CAC: 16 June, 5:15 p.m., McCloskey Room, City Hall